The Joyful News

OF OPENING THE

EXCHEQUER

TO THE

GOLD-SMITHS

OF

Lombard-ſtreet, and their CREDITORS.

As it was celebrated in a *LETTER* to the ſame Friend in the Countrey, to whom the

Bankers Caſe

was formerly ſent.

By the Author of the ſame CASE.

Juſtitiâ ſtabilitur Solium. Prov. 16. 12.

Optimè hoc Exemplum Principi conſtituo, ut ſe talem Civibus præbeat, quales Sibi Deos velit.

Seneca de Clementia, Lib. 1. Sect. 7.

Licenſed, *April* 7. 1677.
ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON,

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The Joyful News of Opening the Exchequer to the Goldſmiths of *Lombard-ſtreet*, and their Creditors, *&c.*

SIR,

I Am now to inform you of one of the moſt glorious Pieces of *Royal Juſtice*, that perhaps any Age hath afforded. *His Majeſty hath heard the Cries of his Loyal Subjects, and* (in imitation of the Divinity) *hath been pleaſed to come down and deliver them.* I will no longer either amuſe or torture you with Expectation, but ſhall now at once overwhelm you with the *Joyful Tidings: The King hath ſetled the Debt of the Gold-ſmiths, and their Creditors, and the Letters Patents are now ennobled under the Great Seal of* England.

When this Heroic Act of *Juſtice* was lately propos'd by His *Majeſty* in Council, the *Noble Lords, and other the Worthies of the Council*, aſſented thereunto, with the moſt generous Unanimity and Concurrence that ever hath been known, not ſo much as one contradicting.

And particularly that *Noble Lord*, who hath the Adminiſtration

niſtration of the *Treaſury*, hath, upon every occaſion, contributed to it all the furtherance imaginable.

Neither is it to be forgotten, that *One Illuſtrious Perſon*, who in truth was concern'd to have obſtructed this Settlement with all his vigour and puiſſance, (for I ſhould have told you, this Debt is charged upon the *Hereditary* part of the Exciſe) was pleas'd notwithſtanding to relinquiſh his own Intereſt, and the Grandeur of his Perſon, to that degree, as to become even the very indefatigable *Sollicitor* therein. I ſay *Sollicitor*, for by that very word himſelf was often pleaſed to expreſs his Fervour and Zeal for the accompliſhment of this Buſineſs. An Action certainly of great Glory! fit indeed to be illuſtrated with a Beam of the Sun! and to be celebrated with due praiſe by every good Engliſhman to the end of the World!

I remember you told me two or three Moneths ago, that this *Debt* had been then dead and buried five years compleat, and that Miracles were ceas'd, and therefore Men did in vain expect the Reſurrection thereof. But you ſee now it is a Prerogative peculiar to *God*, and his Vicegerent the *King*, to reſtore to Life and Vigour, what, in humane Apprehenſion, was long ſince dead and extinct.

Sir, This Glorious Action hath repleniſh'd all Places here with Exultation! An inexpreſſible Joy hath hereupon invaded all mens Souls! Upon the breaking this Box of Precious Ointment, the whole Kingdom is fill'd with the Redolency and Sweetneſs thereof! If I ſhould tell you, that this happy News was received here with the ſame Tranſports of Gladneſs, that thoſe People which inhabit that part of the Globe, where there is a Six moneths continued darkneſs, do entertain the firſt Returns of the Sun, I ſhould give you but a very languid and faint repreſentation

repreſentation of the Joy; for indeed, while I labour to diſcloſe ſo ſtupendious a paſſion, I find *Nature* wanting to me in Metaphors and Similitudes. It ſhall ſuffice me then to tell you onely, That the Tears of the *Widow* are now dried up, the Cries of the *Orphan* are quieted; that the *Aged poor man* weeps no longer, unleſs it be for exceſſive joy; and that all *Mankind* here hath conceiv'd an unſpeakable Contentment in the Action.

Neither ſhall you need to wonder, Sir, that all men here whatſoever take themſelves to be ſharers in this *Jubile*; for though every individual perſon, 'tis true, is not immediately concern'd in the *Debt*, yet I muſt tell you, Sir, every man is concern'd in the *Juſtice* and *Generoſity* of his Prince, though ſhower'd down upon his Fellow-Subjects. To ſay nothing, that there be few perſons in the Kingdom, but will, by this Emanation of His *Majeſty's Clemency*, receive direct and real advantage to Themſelves, or Relations, in ſome Capacity or other.

Sir, The Fraternity of Kings are the Subjects of God, as the reſt of Mankind are of Kings (whom the Scriptures likewiſe call Gods) And can there be any thing more Divine, than for a Prince thus to handle his Subjects with the Paſſion and Tenderneſs, with the which he deſires the Immortal God ſhould treat his own Royal Perſon? The great Roman Emperors valu'd themſelves more upon their Stile of *Fathers of the Countrey*, than upon all their other Auguſt and Illuſtrious Attributes, becauſe that Compellation expreſt (as they conceiv'd) ſome Affinity with Divine Honour. *If thou art a God, as thou pretendeſt* (ſaid the *Scythian* * Ambaſſadors to the Great *Alexander*, when he was about to invade their Maſters Territories) *thou oughteſt to be a Bene-*

* *Qu. Curtius*, lib. 7.

factor to poor Mortals, not to commit Rapines upon them, for in doing so, thou wilt be less than a Man. And it was not without Mystery, that God chose the first Governours of His People from the *Flocks* and the *Sheepfolds*, that they might be the better instructed to become the indulgent *Shepherds* and *Pastors* of Mankind. Nay, we find, that the very first Question made by the first * King that God Almighty appointed in the World, was, [*Quid est huic populo quod plorat?*] *What aileth this People that they weep?*

* Saul.

Without all peradventure, Sir, the *Redress* of *Grievances* of this kind, and the obliging of the World with *Clemency* and *Justice*, is the very Pinnacle of that Renown, which a Mortal Nature can hope to attain to in this Life. This was the way, Sir, this was the way by which the *Hero's* of old time consecrated their names to *Immortality!* by which they ascended the Triumphal Chariot of Glory! and were at length ascrib'd into the number of the *Deities!* And if this be a true Doctrine, (as I think no man will doubt it) how precious and sweet will the memory of his *Majesty's* Name be to the Present and Future Ages, by reason of this so magnificent an expression of His *Grace* and *Justice* to His People.

Sir, You cannot with any reason suppose me herein to play the *Parasite* or *Flatterer*, (you well know the aversions of my Nature to all the servile Arts of that kind) the true and substantial Greatness and Glory of this Action will acquit me from all those little Surmises, and Suspicions. For my own part, I cannot but declare to you, and all the World, that if the like Act of *Justice* had been done by a Prince that Reign'd here a thousand

thouſand years ago; or by a King that at this time inhabited the fartheſt parts of the *Indies*, I could not but have conceiv'd in my mind a ſingular Deference and Veneration for the Action. And withall I muſt tell you, Sir, That the *Envy* and *Diſcontents* are great, and in no wiſe to be excuſed, when the moſt laudable Actions of a Prince or State, and which ought to give the greateſt Satisfaction, are yet taken in ill ſenſe, and not thought worthy of that Applauſe and Remarque which is due unto them. Eſpecially when it hath alſo been ſometime ſeen, that the beſt Governments, yea, and the beſt Men, are like the choiceſt precious Stones, wherein the leaſt Flaw or Speck is preſently diſcover'd; when as thoſe that are generally foul and corrupted, are not obſerv'd with the ſame Niceneſs and Curioſity.

Sir, The People of *Egypt* (they ſay) do preſage the Fertility of the enſuing year, from the gradual Inundations of their River *Nilus*: I think a man may, with equal reaſon, prognoſticate a great Harveſt of Felicity to this Nation, from this late fructifying Overflow of his *Majeſty's Juſtice*. I pretend not to foretel Futurities; but, in ſo plain a caſe, I think, a very weak perſon may undertake to be a *Prophet*: You will give me leave then to inſtance in two or three particulars which come firſt to my mind.

In the firſt place then, this Action will, in all probability, conduce to the Sedation and Quieting of mens minds, when they ſhall obſerve His *Majeſty's* ſo ſingular Regard and Tenderneſs to His Subjects *Property* (a word which hath been always Precious and Sacred in this Nation, and I doubt not will for ever ſo continue) that ſo Vaſt and Immenſe a Debt, a Debt, humanely ſpeaking, long ago dead and buried; that a Debt of this nature,

nature, I ſay, ſhould be thus honourably reviv'd, and ſecur'd, and yet with ſuch Difficulties too, and *Hard Shifts* to the Crown (as His *Majeſty* was lately pleas'd to expreſs himſelf in an Audience of the whole Kingdom) This, this, Sir, is a matter not altogether to be neglected, and (as my *Lord Chancellor* then alſo ſaid) *None but a Juſt and Generous Prince would ever have undergone it.*

I remember * *Tacitus* doth tell us (not without ſome Oſtentation) that his *Divus Nerva* and *Divus Trajanus* (two excellent Emperours it muſt be confeſt) had the knack of rightly mixing and tempering [*Principatum & Libertatem*] *Sovereignty* and *Liberty*, two things (he adds) which before thoſe times did not often keep company together. Our *King* hath, in this Action, diſcover'd himſelf a great Maſter in the ſame Art, and therefore deſerves equal Glory with them. And his *Majeſty* ſeems to have acted herein according to that *Great Saying* of His Royal Grandfather *King James*, (which my *Lord Chancellor* * *Bacon* could not be perſuaded, but that King ſpake by nothing leſs than a Divine Inſpiration) viz. *That Kings ſhould rule by the Laws of their Kingdoms, as God did by the Laws of Nature; and ought as rarely to put in uſe their Prerogative, which tranſcends Laws, as we ſee God put in Uſe his power of working Miracles.*

* *In Præfatione ad Vitam* Jul. Agricolæ.

* Advancement of Learning, *lib. 7. cap. 2.*

Secondly, This Action will undoubtedly have a ſweet Influence upon the Nation in point of *Trade*, *Commerce*, and indeed all *Negotiations* and *Buſineſs* of what nature ſoever. I have obſerv'd to you heretofore, *That Money is the Bloud of the Body Politick, and that if the Circulation thereof be ſtopt in one Member, that*

Blood

Blood can never be tranſmitted to the Neighbouring Veins, and thereupon not only that part, but the whole Body, in fine, becomes fev'riſh and diſtemper'd. But this Gratious Act of His *Majeſty* hath remov'd the Obſtruction, open'd again the Paſſages and Current of the Blood, and thereupon the Body will be reſtor'd to its priſtine Health and Vigor. To ſay nothing, that as the Sea will now feed the Rivers and little Brooks, ſo theſe again will, in good meaſure, disburthen themſelves into the Sea in matter of *Parliamentary* Taxes, Cuſtoms, Impoſts, and other Returns of that Nature; the Advantage being reciprocal both to *King* and *People.*

Laſtly, (and which perhaps will be more conſiderable than all the reſt, in the opinion of all good *Engliſhmen*) *The Sacred Honour and Declarations of the King, the Common Faith, and Laws of the Nation* (which were indeed the Hoſtages and Guaranty for this Debt, and ought to be as immoveable as the Centre of the Earth) *will be hereby preſerv'd Chaſte and Inviolate.* States and Communities, Sir, are ſupported by Fame and Reputation, as well as Individuals, and ſingle Bodies. And the honourable Performances of publick Sanctions, are the Arteries and Ligaments which hold together a Body Politick, which may not be cut aſſunder, or looſed without a manifeſt Peril to the Whole. This Royal Balſome, Sir, hath now perfectly heal'd up the Wound, and a new and more vigorous *Phœnix* of Credit and Reputation will ariſe again, as it were, out of its own Aſhes.

Sir, After the time of that excellent Prince *Trajan*, there was, amongſt the *Romans*, under every re-

nowned Emperor, a form of Acclamation of this kind, *Long may'ſt thou live*, Antoninus! *Long may'ſt thou reign*, Theodoſius! *happier than* Auguſtus, *better than* Trajan! I am ſure we of *England* may, with much more reaſon, proclaim, *Long may'ſt Thou live*, CHARLES THE SECOND! *the grand Exemplar of Clemency to all the Potentates of the Earth! Long may'ſt Thou Reign here in Happineſs and Glory! and make a ſlow, though ſure, Return to Heaven! And let this Illuſtrious and Immortal Act of Thy Juſtice, fill the mouth of Fame, and be reſounded with loud Applauſe throughout the whole Univerſe, as long as the Sun and Moon endure!* So prayeth,

SIR,

Grays-Inn,
May 7th
1677.

Your affectionate Friend

and Servant,

THO. TURNOR.

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